



_site

Hernesaari - the pea island



THE SITE _HERNESAARI

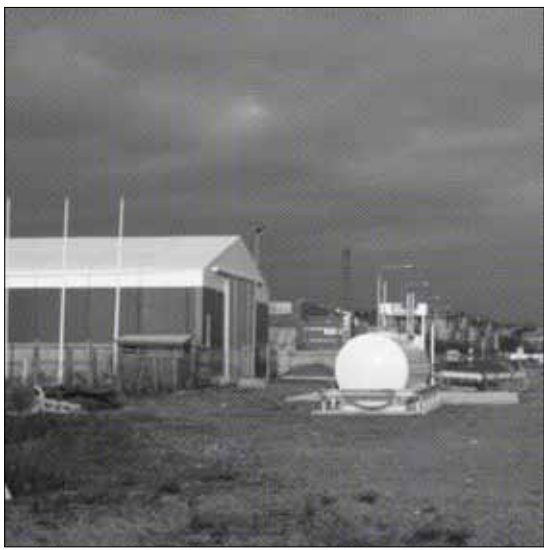
HELSINKI'S
DYING
INDUSTRIAL
PENINSULAR

_HERNESAARI

60° 09' 00" N, 24° 55' 00" E

Hernesaari is an artificially constructed peninsular located at the southern edge of mainland Helsinki. The land mass was constructed in the 1930's by connecting the two natural islands 'Munkisaari' and 'Hernesaari' to the mainland by dropping land-fill in the sea. The peninsular was gradually expanded into its current shape during the following 80 years. The new land was created to accommodate industrial activities, most notably a Ford motorcar factory that opened in 1948. Today the factory and most of the areas other facilities are closed down leaving the peninsular in a state of post industrial dilapidation. At the southern edge of the site a surviving billboards advertises the adjacent port of Helsinki.

The tip of Hernesaari



Storage facilities.

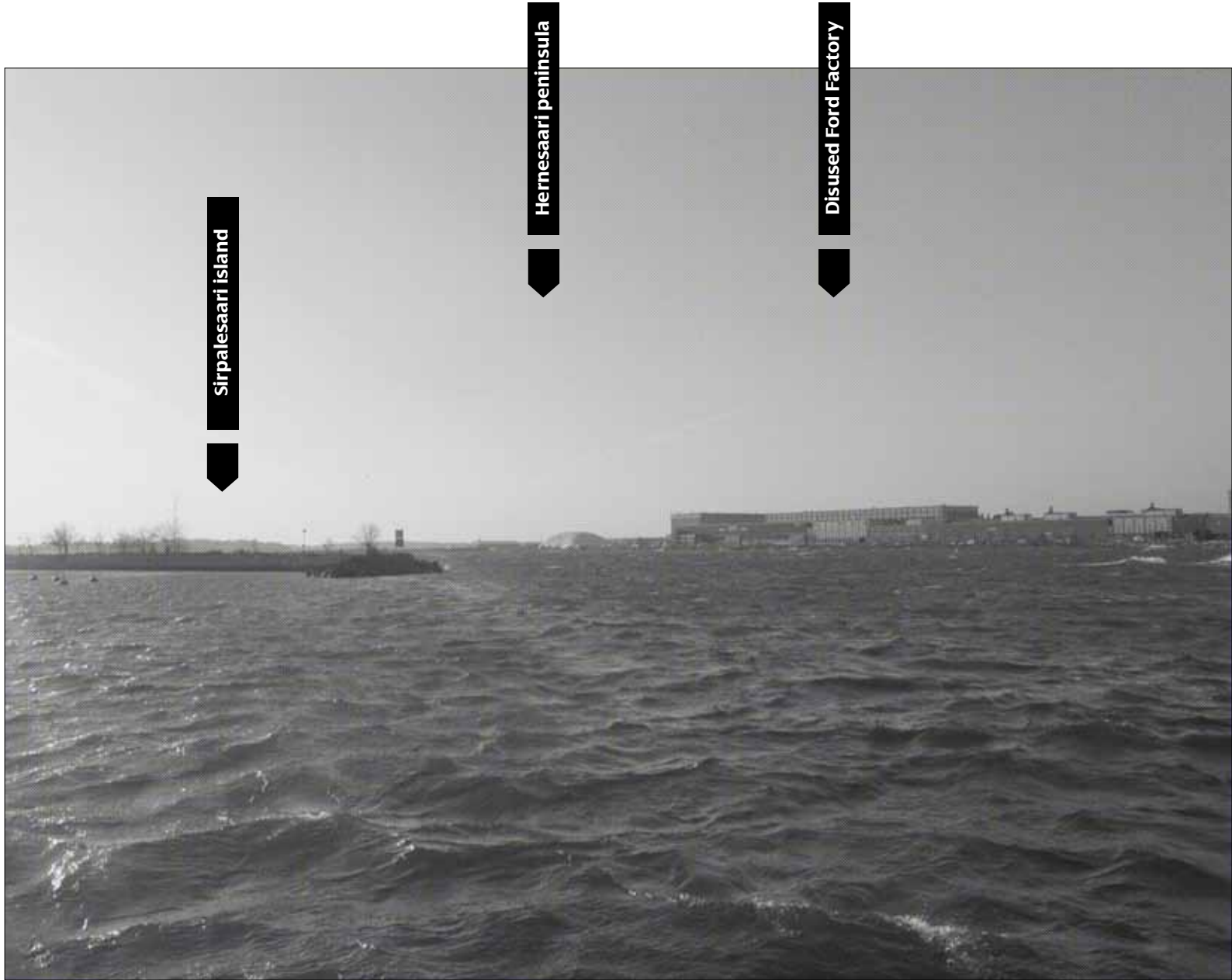


Empty parking lot.



Grain silos.





View across the water to the Hernesaari peninsular.



THE SOUTHERN TIP OF MAINLAND HELSINKI

In its current configuration Hernesaari is the most southern geographical point of mainland Helsinki. The tip of the peninsular reaches into the surrounding archipelago and currently holds one of Hernesaari's only active functions; a snow dumping area.

South Western Helsinki





Historic photograph of Munkkisaari island.



Historic photograph of Munkkisaari and Hernesaari island prior to landfilling.

THE PEA ISLAND AND THE MONK'S ISLAND

The name Hernesaari translated to English means Pea Island and was the name of one of the islands that was connected to the mainland. The other island Munkkisaari, or Monk's Island, was a base for fishing boats and fishermen going further out to sea. No visual traces of the two islands exist today. At the northern part of the site a new residential area has been created and there are plans to create more housing to replace the disused industrial buildings on the rest of the peninsular.

Munkkisaari island

Hernesaari Island

Munkkisaari Island



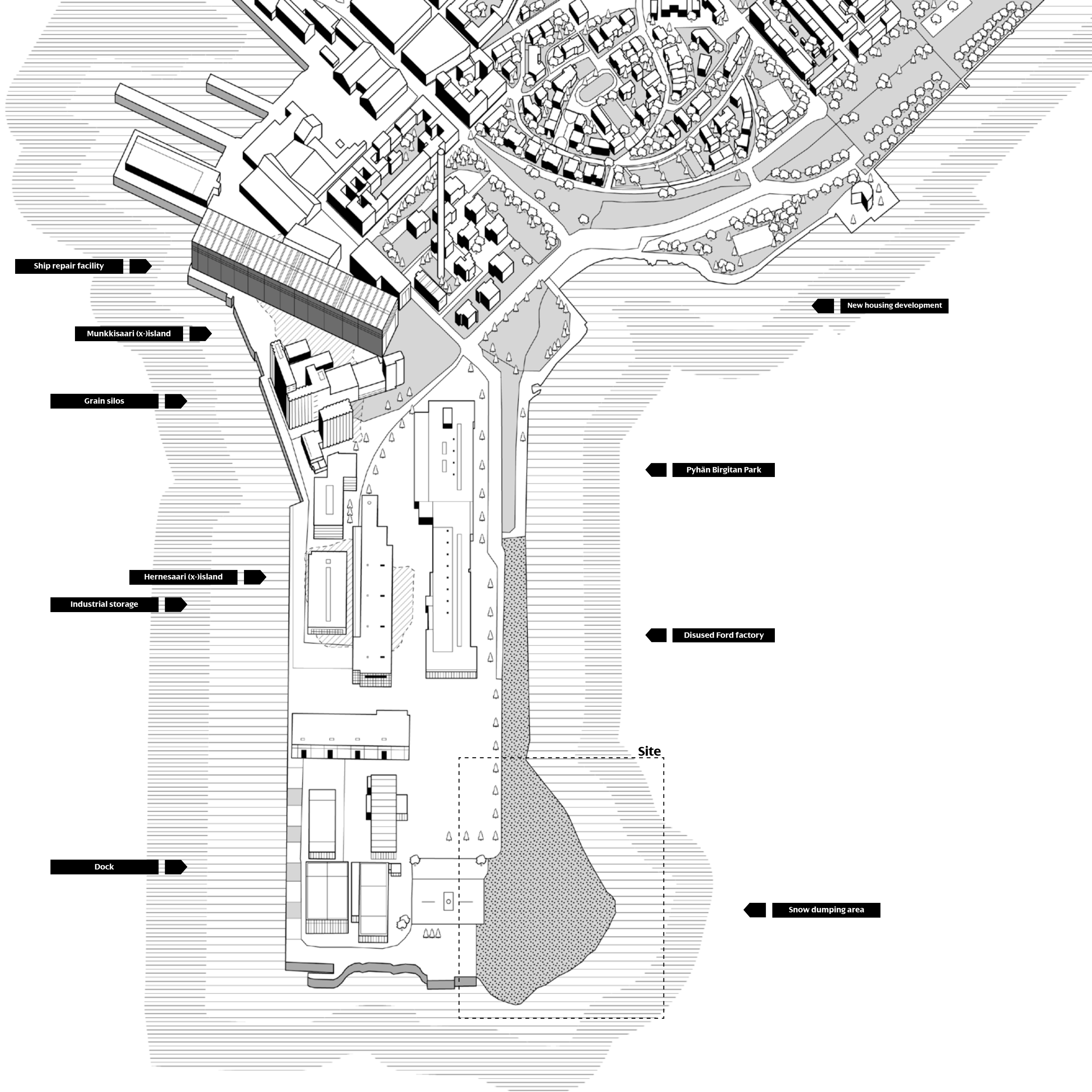
Former Ford factory.







Hernesaari snow dumping site.



Snow dumping at Hernesaari.



Hernesaari - 1:6500

-  Sand or gravel surface
-  Tarmac or concrete surface
-  Grass
-  Vegetation not to scale



Summer condition

Site without any function.

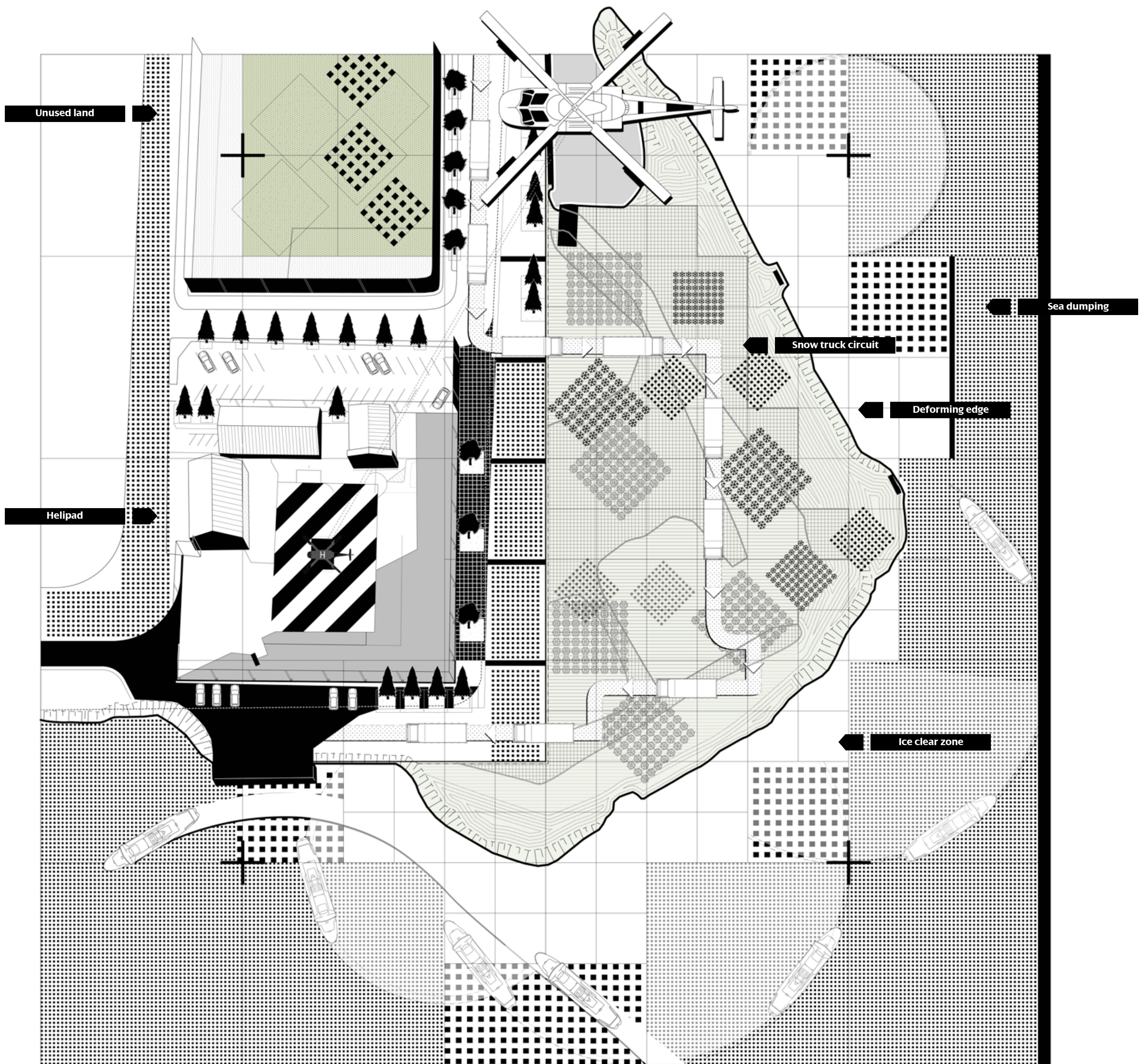


Winter condition

Site being used for snow dumping.

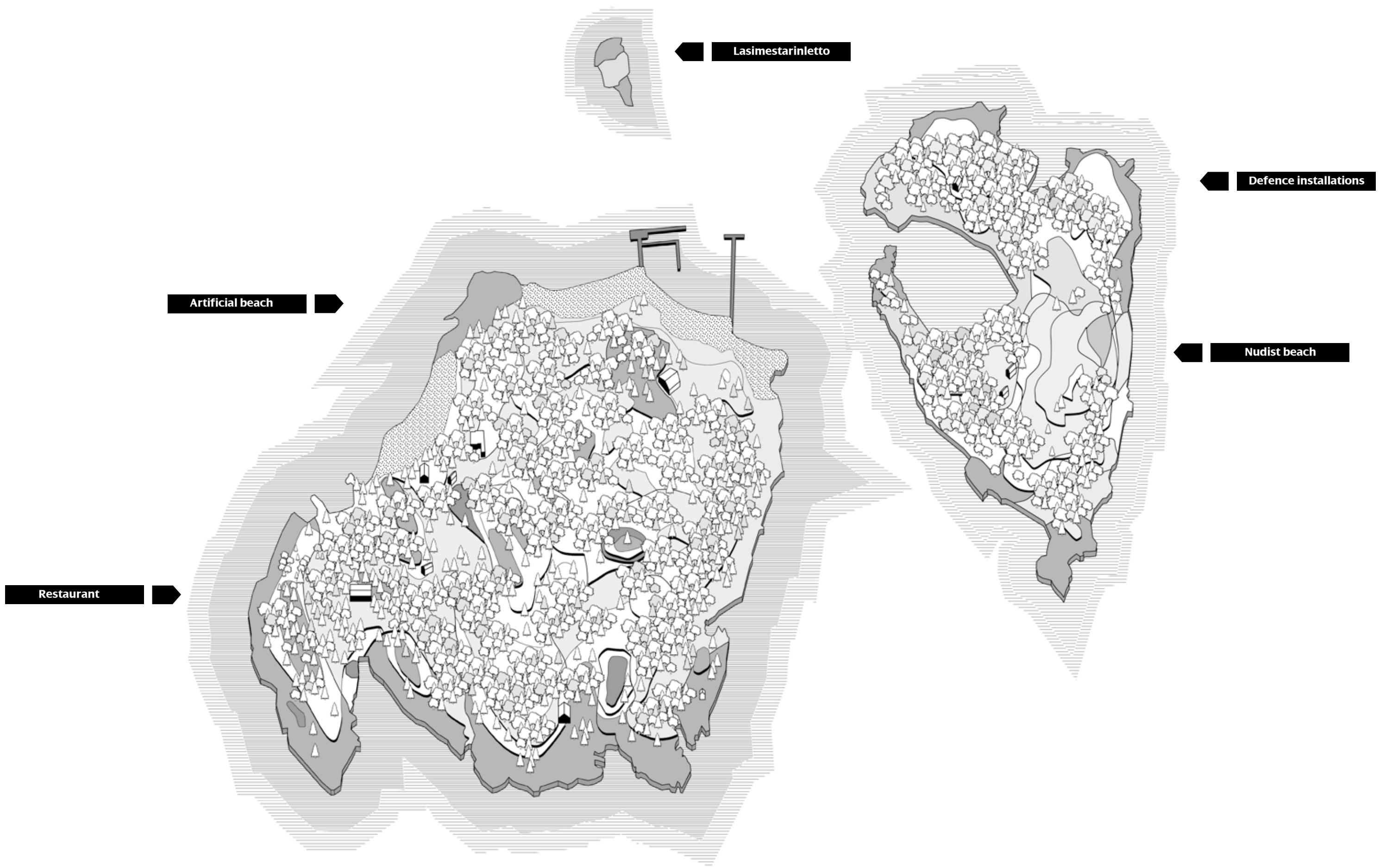
SUMMER AND WINTER CONDITIONS

During summer the southern tip of Hernesaari lays unused and the 34.000 m2 of land is fenced off and inaccessible. The ground is sandy, partly formed from land fill and partly by the grit and sand left by the collected snow from winter. In the winter months the site is opened as one of Helsinki's 5 official snow dumping sites. Hernesaari is the only site that also offers the possibility to dump snow directly into the sea. The practice of doing this has over the years deformed the edges of the site dramatically giving it a more natural and soft outline compared to the engineered original shape. During winter ice breaker boats circulate the site to keep ice from forming on the dumping areas.



Site - 1:1250

The deforming shape of the snow dumping area is shown with different outlines and hatches. Previous incarnations of the area are shown this way. The winter ice cover is shown around the areas kept ice free by ice breakers.



THE SOUTHERN CONTEXT; ISLANDS

To the south of the site are two islands. Like many of Helsinki's islands these two are manly used during summer. The city's largest artificial beach is located on Läntinen Pihlajasaari and is a popular destination during summer. Itäinen Pihlajasaari has some old military installations and the city's only nudist beach. During summer ferries operate on a regular basis between the islands and Helsinki's east harbour.

_ITÄINEN PIHLAJASAARI

60° 08' 22" N, 24° 55' 21" E

_LÄNTINEN PIHLAJASAARI

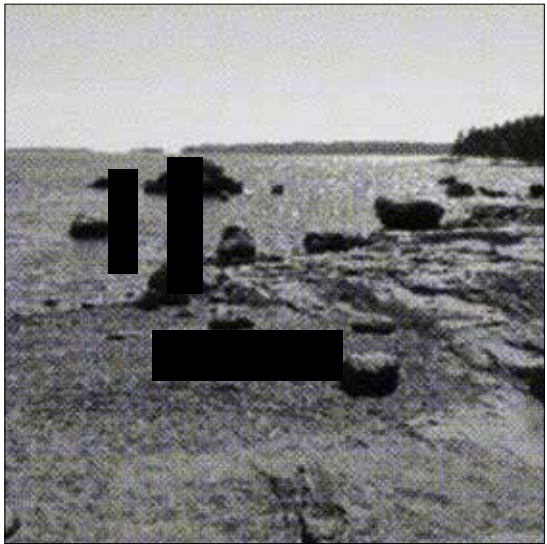
60°13'75" N, 24°91'39" E



Military installation.



Lasimestarinletto island



Nudist beach



Restaurant



Private boat



Moored boats



Bridge connecting the two islands



Cruise ships passing by on their way to the West harbour



The arteficial beach



Remains of a military installation

CONNECTIONS

The islands are located 500 metres from the site and are clearly visible from Hernesaari. Despite this no official boat connections are available here. The large cruise ships going to the West Harbour pass close by the islands along the cruise channel. Occasionally cruise passengers disembark on Hernesaari's western shore.

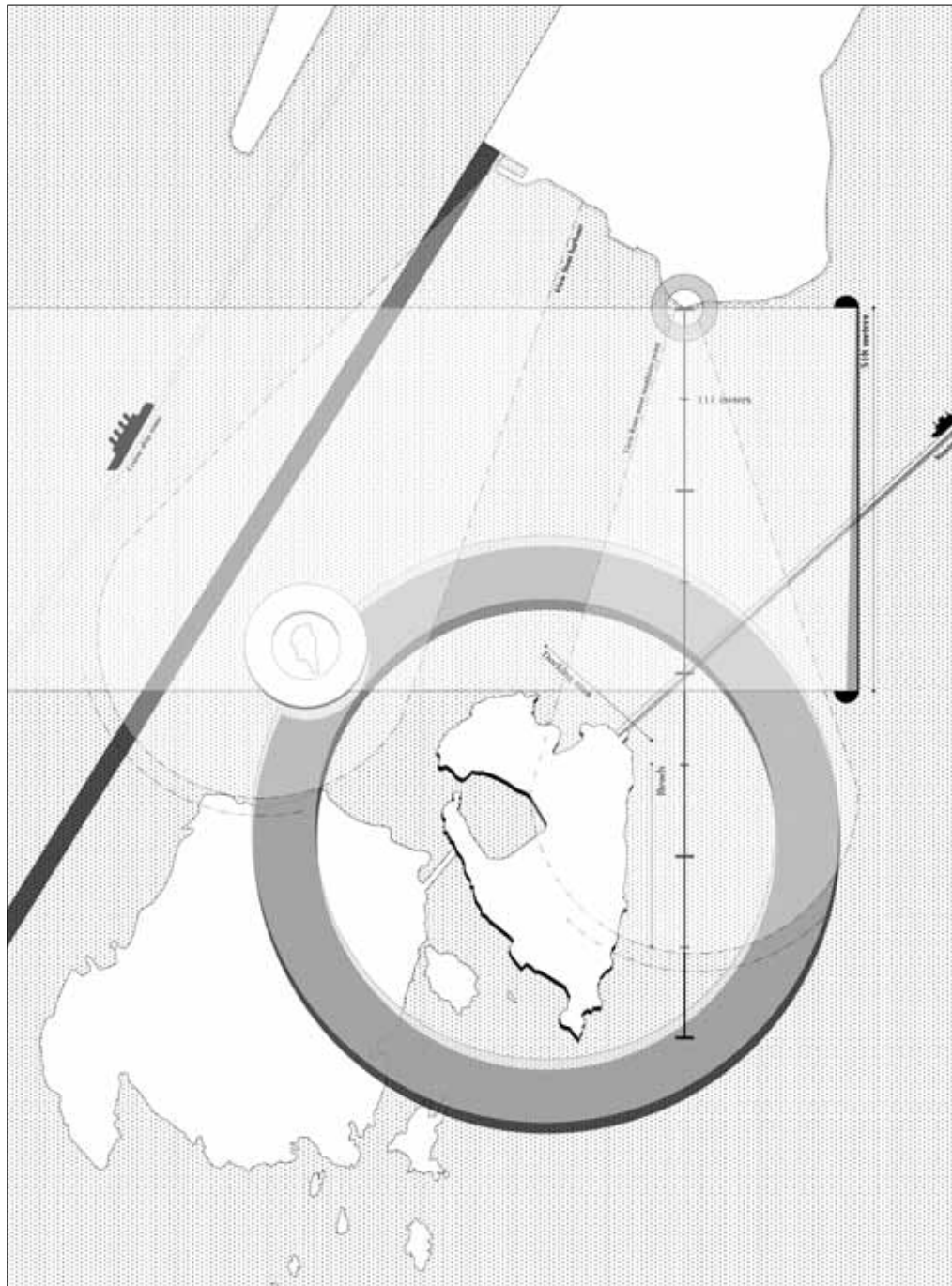
Itäinen Pihlajasaari



View across of the two islands from Hernesaari

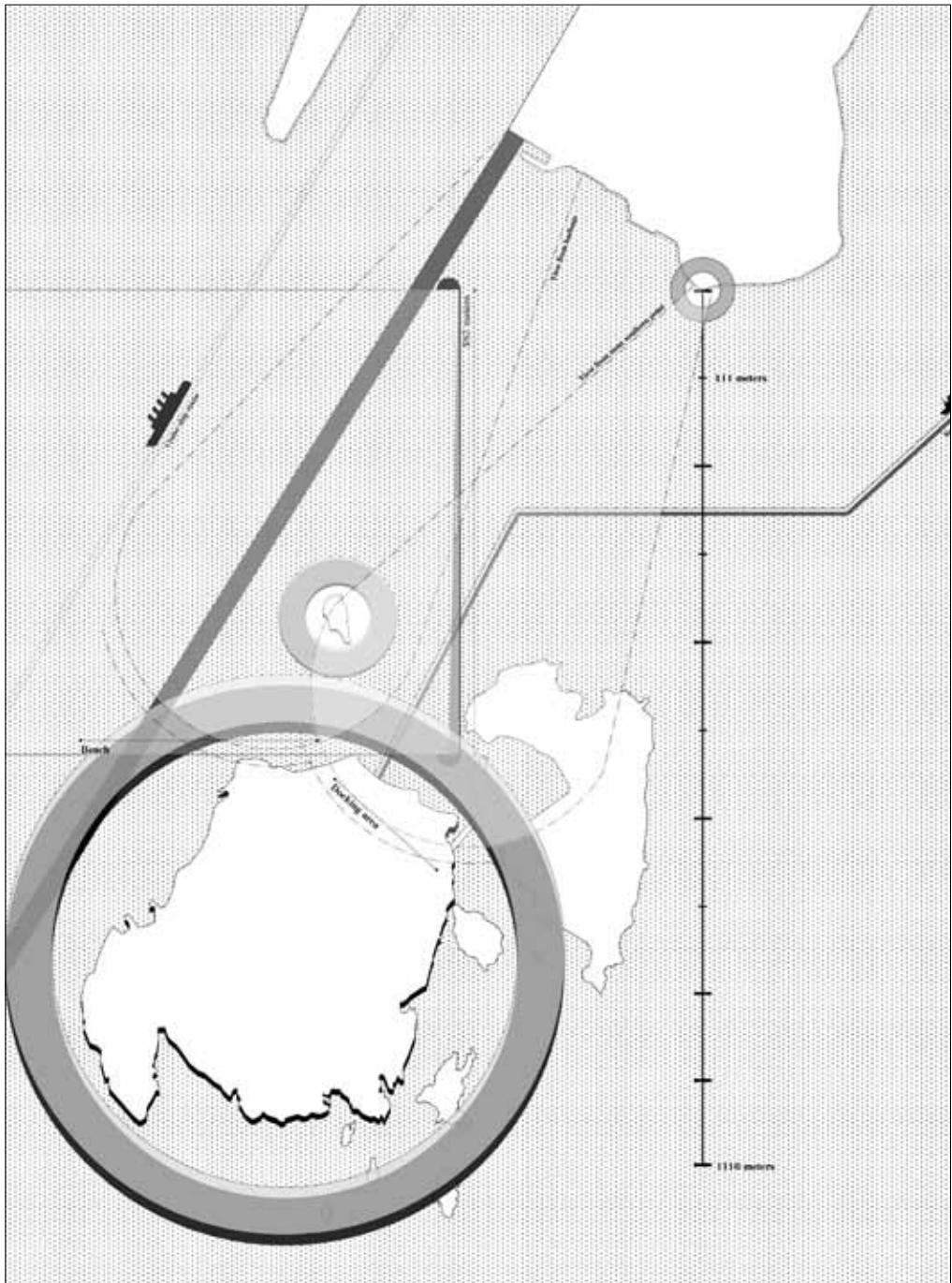
Läntinen Pihlajasaari

ITÄINEN PIHLAJASAARI



Connections to Hernesaari.

LÄNTINEN PIHLAJASAARI

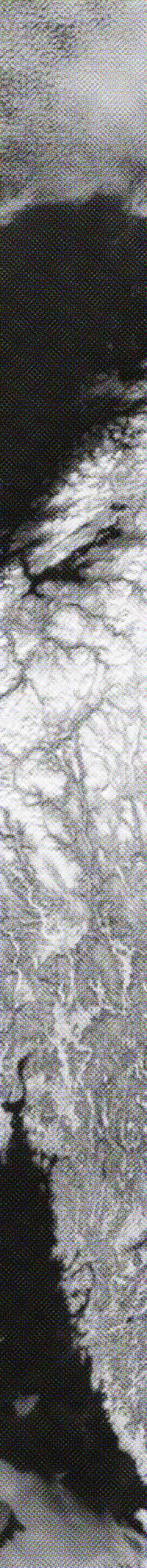


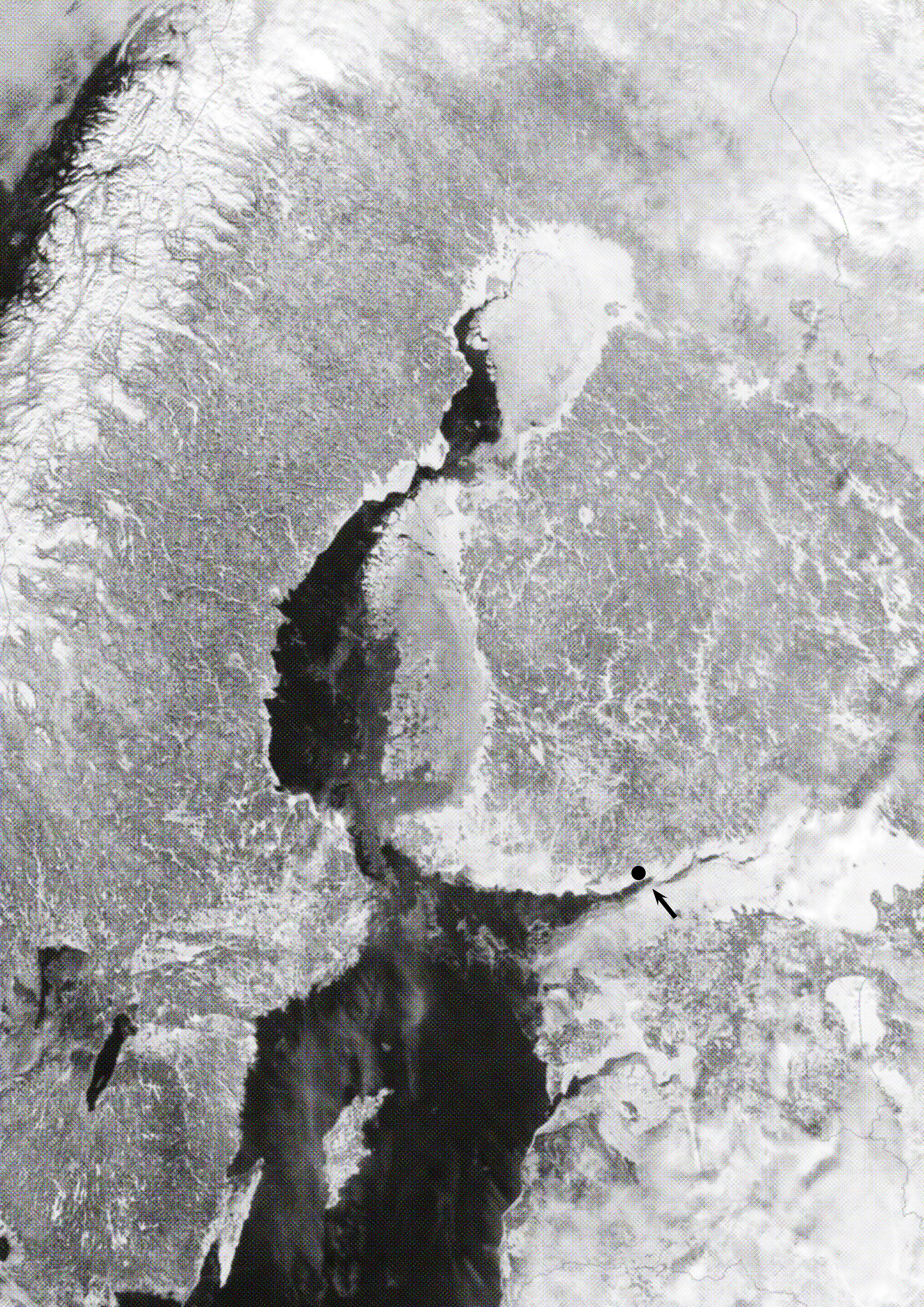
Connections to Hernesaari.

SITE CONDITIONS

THE SNOW FALL IN HELSINKI

Every winter Helsinki faces a battle with the extreme weather conditions of the region. Temperatures far below zero and perpetual snow fall makes it a challenge to keep the city moving. Over a 1500 snow clearing machines are engaged during the heart of winter to keep the streets clear and accessible. The Helsinki region receives an average of 2m of snow every winter. Especially the past 3 winters have been harsh and with climate change increasing the occurrence of severe weather phenomena, there is a huge demand for urban planning related to extreme weather conditions.



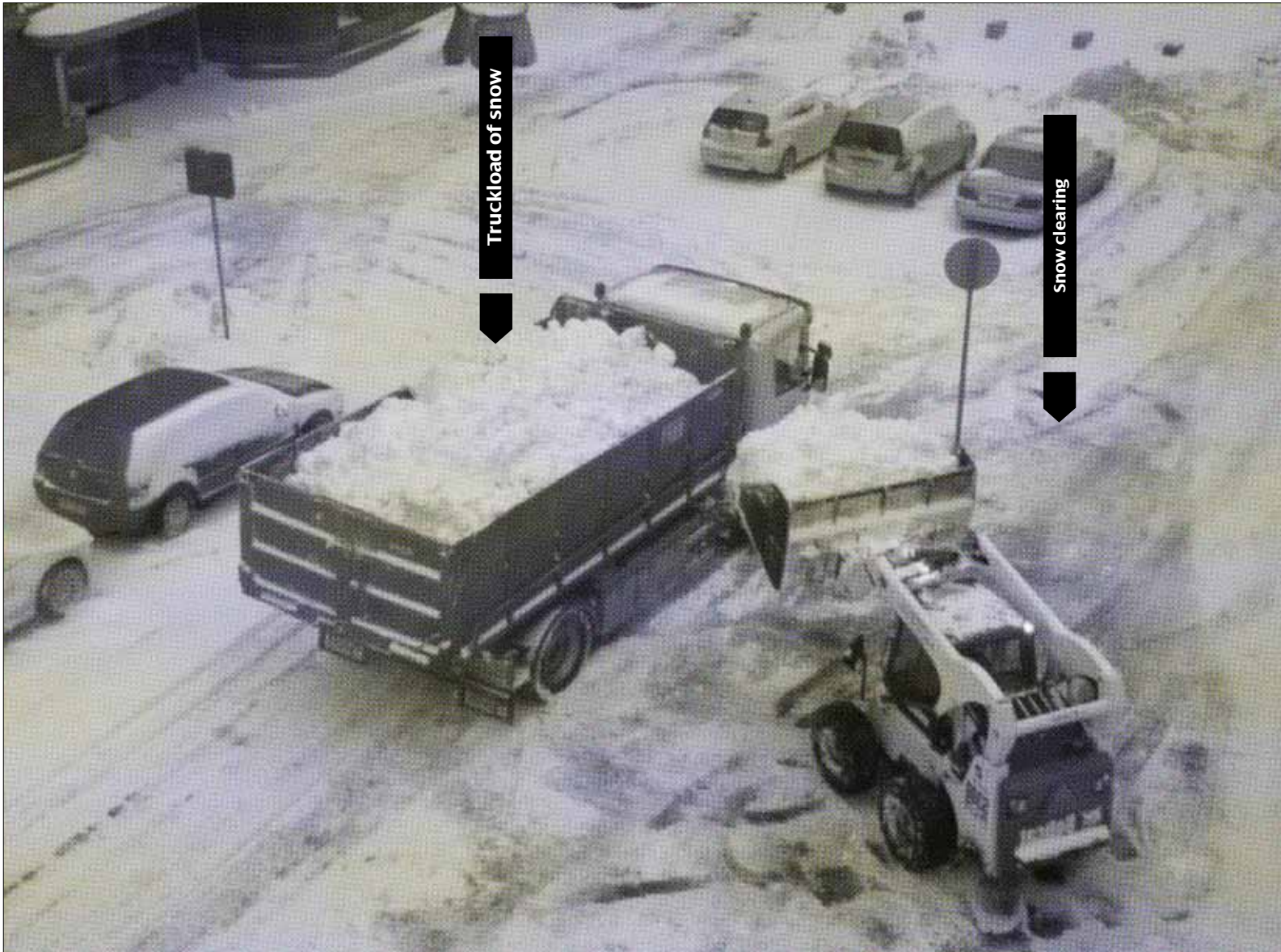




Snow on a Helsinki street.

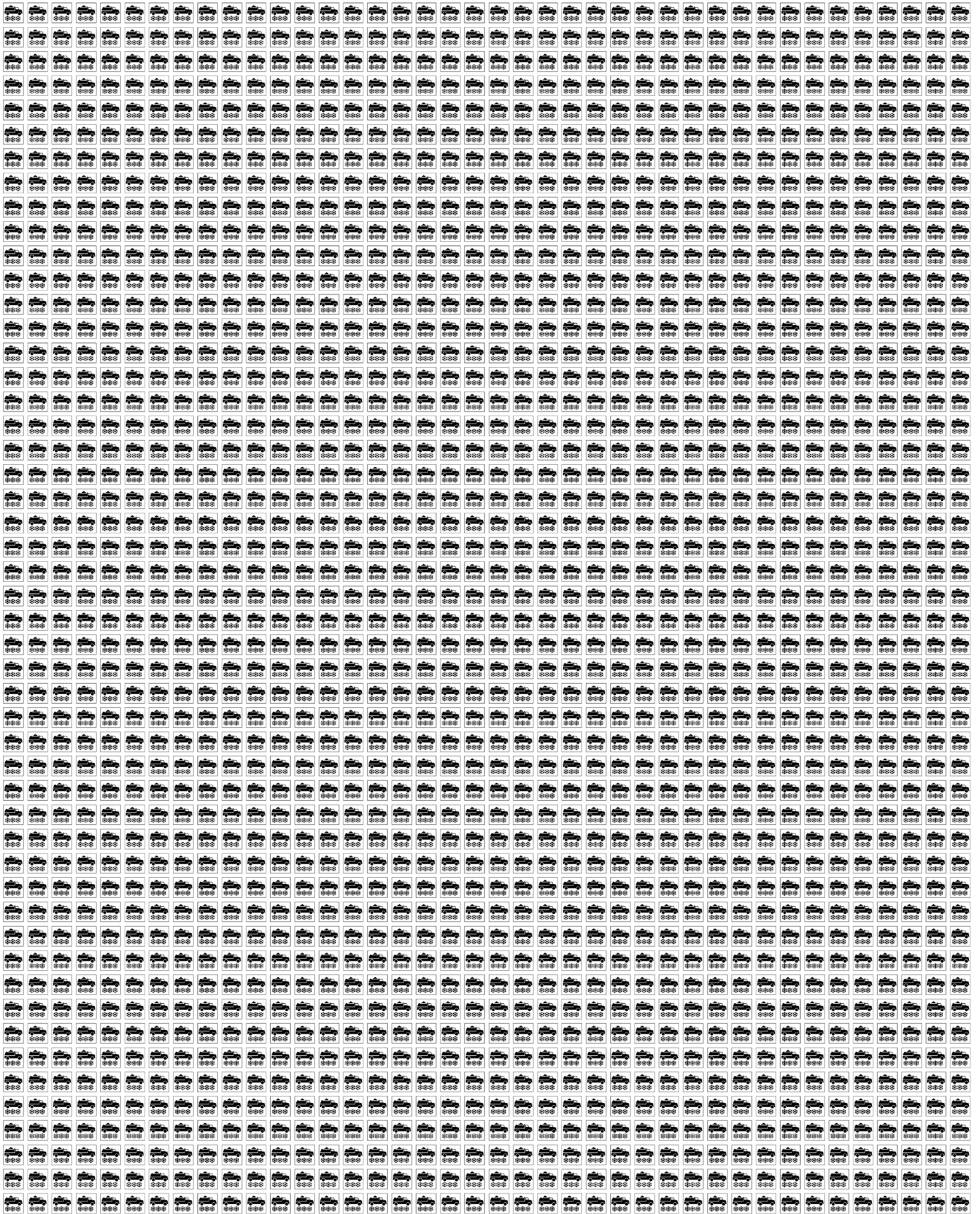
THE DAILY SNOW REMOVAL

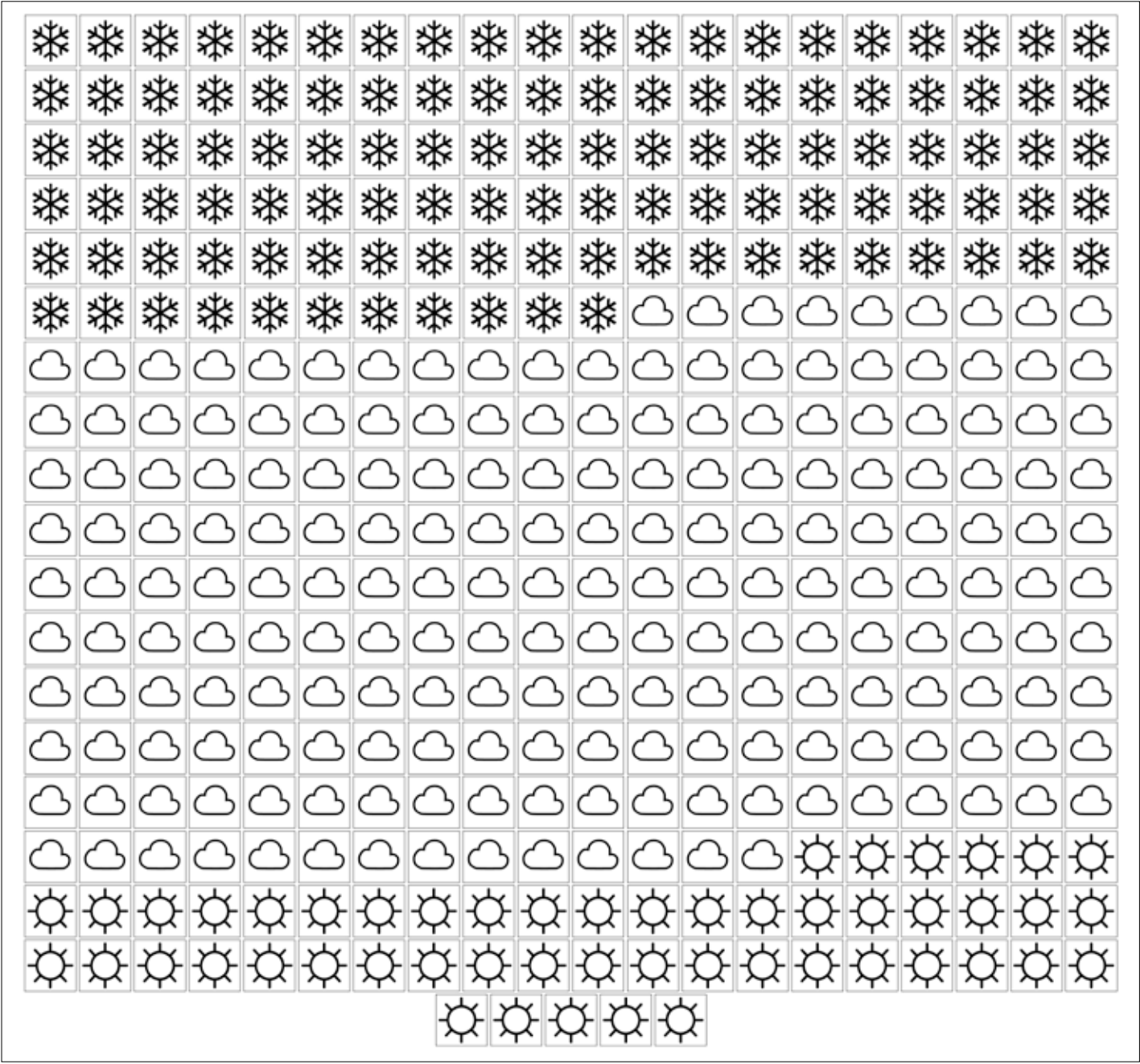
During winter a staggering 2000 truck loads of snow are removed from the city - every day. This amounts to about 2,300,000 m³ or roughly 692,212.5 tonnes of snow over the 4 months winter period. The huge amount of snow is moved to one of five snow dumping sites, the largest being located north of the city. At this site the collected snow rarely melts before the end of September despite the melting process being accelerated by machines. During the last 3 winters there has been concerns that some snow dumping sites would be permanently decommissioned due to snow failing to melt before the onset of the next winter.



Snow clearing in Helsinki.

2000 trucks of snow





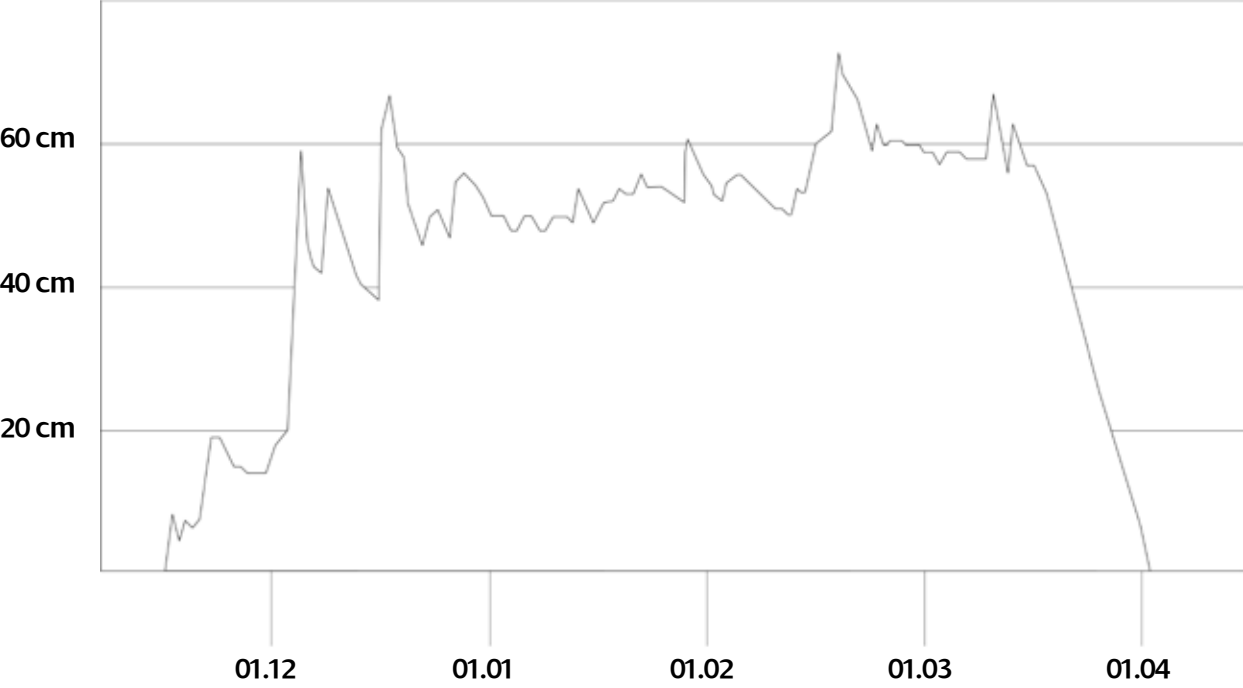
Snow days in Helsinki.

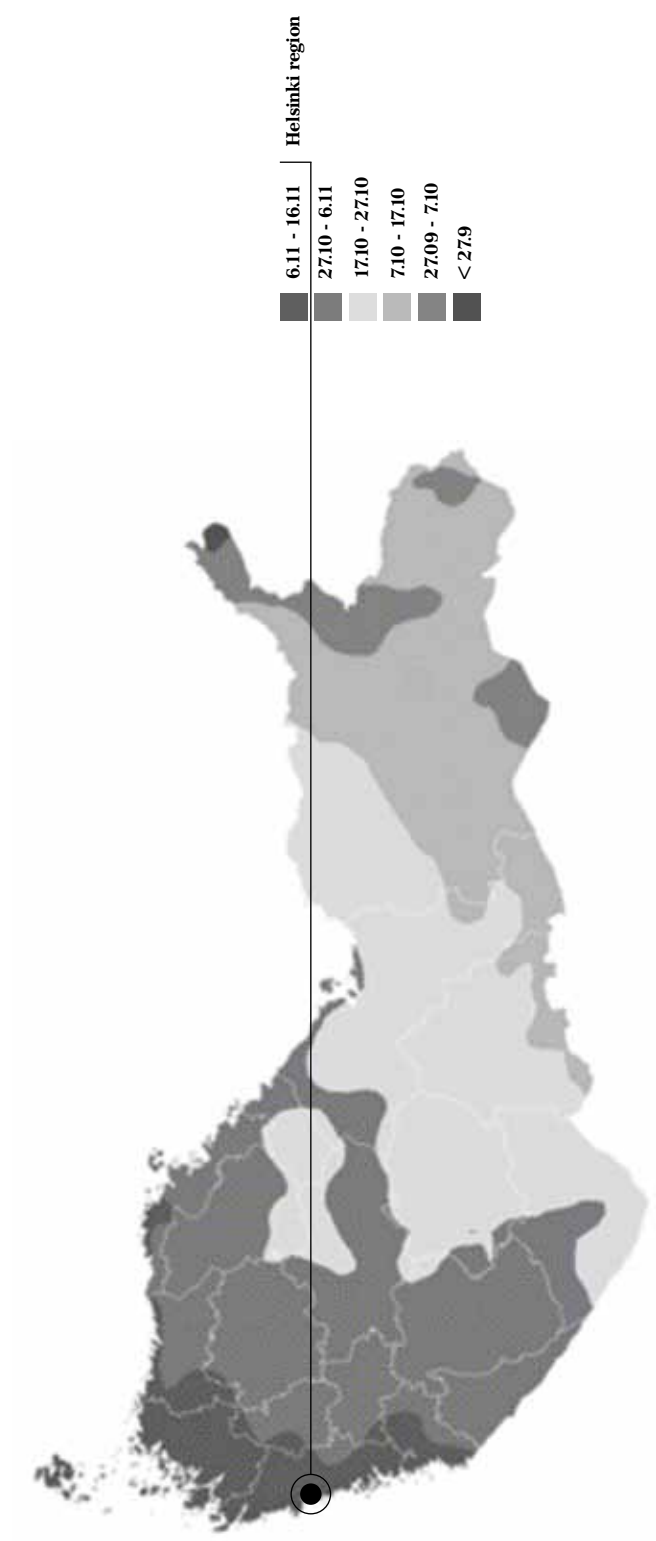
SNOW STATISTICS

On average the winter in Helsinki lasts 101 days. This is the number of days with permanent snow cover. The first snow typically falls in late November and the permanent snow cover last until early April.

During January an average of 60-65 mm of precipitation falls. This is measured in liquid H2O, which has about a tenth of the volume of H2O in the form of snow. In other words January sees an average snow fall of 600-650 mm. On average January has 20-23 days of snow fall.

Snow depth in Helsinki.





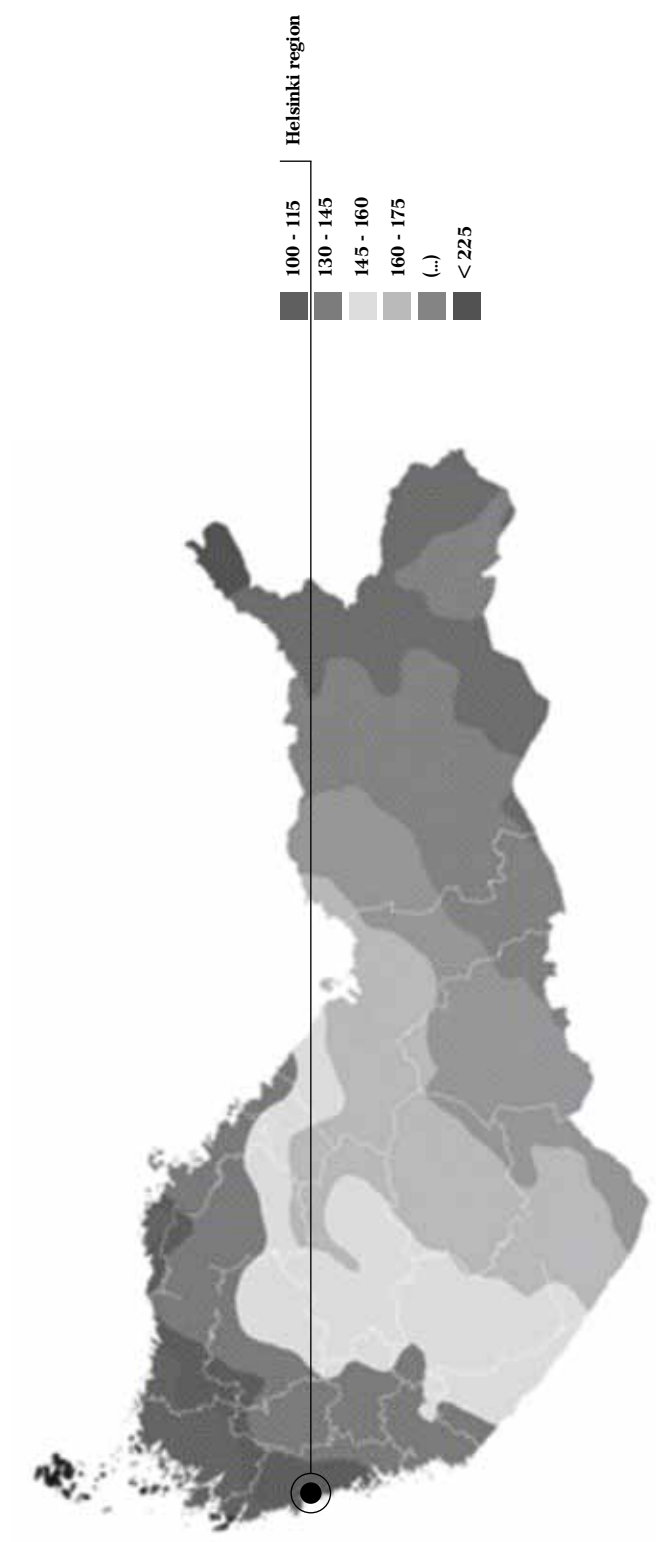
**AVERAGE DATE OF FIRST SNOW
1981-2010**



**AVERAGE STARTING DATE OF PERMANENT SNOW COVER
1981-2010**



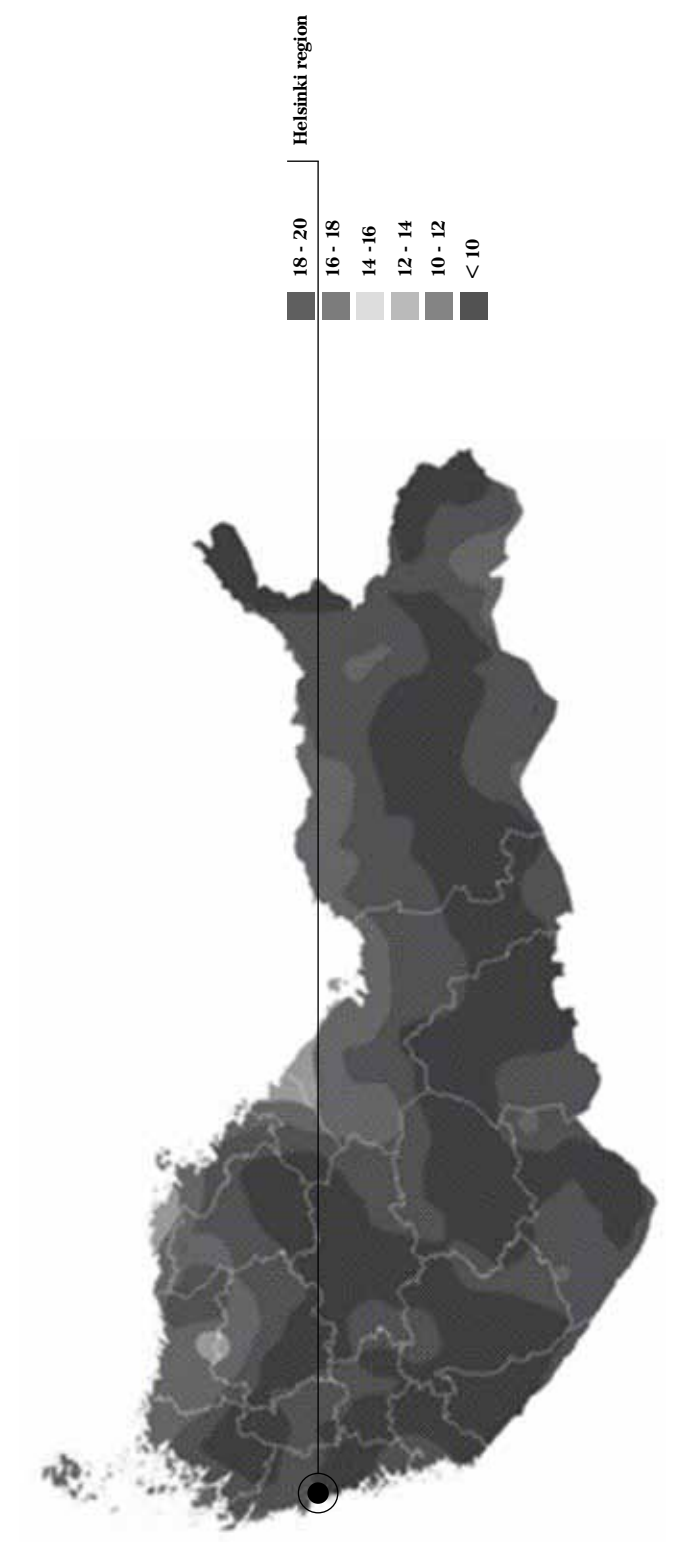
**AVERAGE ENDING DATE OF PERMANENT SNOW COVER
1981-2010**



**AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WITH SNOW COVER
1981-2010**



**JANUARY PRECIPITATION (MEASURED IN LIQUID H₂O)
1981-2010**



**JANUARY PRECIPITATION DAYS
1981-2010**



Maununneva site.



Viikki site.



Snow dumping in the sea at the Hernesaari site.

SNOW DUMPING SITES

The large amounts of snow collected during the winter can not melt naturally before the following years snow start falling again. The snow is manipulated, moved or drenches to accelerate the process. In 2010 the mountain of collected snow in Maununneva was 30 metres high and did not melt until late September.

Of the five snow dumping sites Hernesaari is the one located closest to the centre. Sea snow dumping is here facilitated by ice breakers. During winter it takes the water only 10 minutes to freeze and the boats most therefor be in perpetual motion.

For environmental reasons sea dumping is soon to be banned in Finland and the future use of the Hernesaari site must for this reason be changed. New solution of disposing and using the huge amount of snow must be found.

